



## ***United States Attorney District of New Jersey***

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### **U. S. ATTORNEYS' OFFICES CONTRIBUTED TO \$6.68 BILLION IN CIVIL & CRIMINAL COLLECTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2010**

#### ***Recoveries Largest in History***

NEWARK, N.J. – Paul J. Fishman, United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, announced today that financial collections by the Department of Justice in criminal and civil actions in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 reached an all-time high due to the efforts of U.S. Attorneys' Offices nationwide, with the 94 Offices contributing to the collection of \$6.68 billion during the government's fiscal year. This amount represents the most successful collection year for U.S. Attorneys' Offices to date.

According to statistics from the Department of Justice, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey contributed to the collection and forfeiture of over \$69 million in FY 2010. Of this amount, over \$15.5 million was collected in criminal actions and over \$42 million was collected in civil actions. Additionally, the Office collected more than \$11.4 million in criminal and civil forfeitures.

Already in FY 2011 to date, the Office has collected over \$3.8 million in criminal actions and more than \$15.8 million in civil actions.

U.S. Attorney Fishman stated: "In a time when we all worry about the bottom line, U.S. Attorney's Offices offer a good return on the taxpayers' investment. These recoveries are consistent with our core mission of protecting the people of New Jersey. In addition to prison terms and forcing wrongdoers to give up their illegal profits, serious financial penalties are a warning to others not to take the same path. These numbers show that federal prosecution is remarkably cost-effective."

The U.S. Attorneys' offices are responsible for enforcing and collecting civil and criminal debts owed to the United States and criminal debts owed to federal crime victims. Statistics from the Department of Justice indicate that the total amount collected in criminal actions totaled \$2.84 billion in restitution, criminal fines, and felony assessments. The law requires defendants to pay restitution to victims of certain federal crimes who have suffered a physical injury or financial loss. While restitution is paid directly to the victim, criminal fines and felony assessments are paid to the Department's Crime Victims' Fund, which distributes the funds to state victim compensation and victim assistance programs.

The statistics also indicate that \$3.84 billion was collected in civil actions. The largest civil collections were from affirmative civil enforcement cases, in which the United States

recovered government money lost to fraud or other misconduct or collected fines imposed on individuals and/or corporations for violations of federal health, safety, civil rights or environmental laws. In addition, civil debts were collected on behalf of several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Internal Revenue Service, and Small Business Administration.

Additionally, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices contributed to the collection of \$1.8 billion in asset forfeiture actions in FY 2010. Forfeited assets are deposited into either the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund or the Department of Treasury Forfeiture Fund and are used to restore funds to crime victims and for a variety of law enforcement purposes.

The nationwide collection totals for FY 2010 represent nearly a 30 percent increase in criminal collections and 57 percent increase in civil collections over FY 2009. In FY 2009, the U.S. Attorneys' Offices contributed to the collection of more than \$4.6 billion. Of the amount collected, \$2.23 billion was collected criminally, and \$2.44 billion was collected civilly. The significant increase in collections was due to various large criminal restitution cases as well as large health care fraud cases.

For more information, the Department's Annual Statistical Reports can be found on the Internet at [http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading\\_room/foiamanuals.html](http://www.justice.gov/usao/reading_room/foiamanuals.html).